

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193411

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:OGEN, UR

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

1. REGARDING CIVIL DEFENSE, YOU WILL HAVE SEEN GENERAL WOLD'S MESSAGE (DIA 2123 OF AUGUST 10) IN WHICH HE "CORRECTS" MOSCOW'S AIRGRAM NO. 179 ON THE SUBJECT. WITH ALL RESPECT TO JIM, HE WAS PROBABLY SOMEWHAT UNDER THE GUN TO COMMENT AS HE DID ON THIS INCREASINGLY MISUNDERSTOOD SUBJECT. BUT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT LETTING STAND WITHOUT REBUTTAL HIS OPINION IN PARA 5 OF THE MESSAGE THAT "....JUDGMENTS CONCERNING THE OVERALL LEVEL OF SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE ACTIVITY SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED BY AUTHORITIES IN WASHINGTON TO COME FROM USDAO AND THE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW ..." BOTH SOV AND INR OFFICERS WHO ARE STRUCK BY THE EXTENT TO WHICH ANALYSTS IN CIA AND DOD POSTULATE SCENARIOS AND ATTRIBUTE SOVIET CAPABILITIES WHICH, AT BEST, ARE EXAGGERATED AND, AT WORST, HAVE NO
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 193411

RELATION TO THE ACTUAL REALITY OF SOVIET LIFE, INDUSTRY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE. SINCE THE ENTIRE CIVIL DEFENSE ISSUE IS APPROACHING SOME POINT OF NET ASSESSMENT, WE WOULD WELCOME A HARD-HITTING EMBASSY MESSAGE WHICH EMPHASIZES THAT THOSE ON THE SCENE DO INDEED HAVE MEANINGFUL PERCEPTIONS WHICH ARE NOT, IN THE WORDS OF ONE AGENCY'S CHIEF ANALYST ON CIVIL DEFENSE, "MERELY IMPRESSIONISTIC." OUR

AIM IS CERTAINLY NOT TO IGNORE THE AREAS WHERE SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE IS EFFECTIVE IN ITS STRUCTURE AND PROGRAMS, BUT WE ARE BOTHERED BY THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE "EXPERTS" ON SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE DO NOT COMPREHEND THE ACCOMPANYING CONSTRAINTS OF THE OVERALL SOVIET SYSTEM.

2. CHIEF JUSTICE WOULD BE HAPPY TO STOP BY EMBASSY THURSDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 8, FOR A BRIEFING.

3. YALE HAS POINTED OUT THAT PHRASE "AS GUESTS OF US CONGRESS" IN FIRST PARA STATE 180303 (ON INVITATION TO SUPREME SOVIET) MAY IMPLY THAT RECEIVING SIDE WOULD PAY LODGING AND US DOMESTIC TRAVEL COSTS OF SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION. THAT WAS NOT INTENT OF LETTER, WHICH IN FACT AVOIDED THE WORD "GUEST". CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS BELIEVE SOVIETS UNDERSTAND THAT WE EXPECT THEM TO PAY LOCAL COSTS, AS DID HOUSE AND SENATE DELEGATIONS IN USSR IN 1975. HAS ANYTHING YOU HAVE HEARD THERE LEAD YOU TO THINK OTHERWISE?

4. WE ARE APPROVING TRAVEL TO MOSCOW BY AIR FORCE MAJOR BILL BURHANS AND MR. JOE RUSZ IN SEPTEMBER TO HAGGLE WITH VAAP OVER SOME MILITARY BOOKS THE AIR FORCE WANTS TO TRANSLATE AND PUBLISH HERE. DAO IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND THE PLANNED TRIP.
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PAGE 03 STATE 193411

5. UNDERSTAND INCOMING CABLE SAYS SOVIETS WANT US TO HOST LUNCH IN VIENNA ON DAY WE HOST TALKS. POINT IS THAT OUR LUNCH WILL BE AT HILTON, WHICH IS CLOSER TO SOVIET EMBASSY THAN TO US EMBASSY. WE WILL ANSWER CABLE, BUT MEANWHILE YOU CAN USE THIS IF OPPORTUNITY ARISES.
VANCE

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